



NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS 31ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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SOLIS: EPA DATA INSUFFICIENT TO UNDERSTAND THE OVERALL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF GRAVEL MINING

WASHINGTON, D.C. Today, Representative Hilda L. Solis (CA-31), a leader in environmental justice, expressed disappointment about the lack of basic information provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to understand the overall effects of mining operations on the health of local communities and the environment.

In March, Representative Solis and Representative Henry A. Waxman (CA-29) requested the EPA provide information on the health and environmental effects of gravel mining operations in the area encompassing Baldwin Park, Azusa, El Monte, and Irwindale, California.

The data provided by the EPA reveals that neither the local, state, nor federal governments know what risks the gravel mining operations may pose to nearby residents. Certain basic information about the environmental effects of the operations appears not to exist. There are major gaps in the monitoring of air and water quality and less knowledge of the consequent effects on the health and the environment.

“My constituents know we have environmental and health problems. Our community deserves to know the effects of gravel mining on the air they breathe and the water they drink. I urge the EPA to work with other federal, state and local public health agencies to perform a complete risk analysis of this community to understand how we can better protect our families,” Rep. Solis said.

“I am appalled and outraged that there is no established mechanism to regulate the amount of particulate matter being caused by this industry. This must be rectified,” Rep. Solis said. “I urge the EPA and other federal, state, and local entities to exercise greater oversight authority so that we can establish and enforce basic federal environmental requirements for the gravel mining industry and other industries that slip through the cracks of our environmental laws.”

“I plan to work with all stakeholders to make sure that communities know the health and environmental risks that their families face when they live exposed to pollution. I will pursue all

options available to address the data gaps revealed in the report,” concluded Rep. Solis.

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